

0075271

From: [Paul Stevens](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#)
Subject: Re: Fw: Vehicle Characteristics & Operations Call Notes
Date: 08/29/2008 01:18 PM
Signed by: CN=Paul Stevens/OU=CAHA/O=NPS
Attachments: [080828_Veh_Char_Operations.doc](#)

I agree totally. Patrick was hammering the issue. Utilizing the campgrounds made their argument for the (24 hour parking) useless.

Paul K. Stevens
Law Enforcement Specialist
National Park Service
Outer Banks Group
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, NC 27954


(252) 473-2111 ext. 138 (office)
(252) 475-8307 (cellular)

▼ [Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Mike
Murray/CAHA/NPS**

To Paul Stevens/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc

08/29/2008 01:03 PM

Subject Re: Fw: Vehicle Characteristics & Operations Call
Notes 

Thanks Paul. My input on the camping issue(below) is that I am open to committee recommendations about how we manage our campgrounds, but the ultimate decision of whether it is financially or operationally feasible to implement the recommendation rests entirely with the Park Service. In other, we cannot commit to the wording below, but will consider it as an impression of interest that the camping season be extended to the extent NPS determines to be feasible.

*CAMPING: Camping in designated areas (campsites or other) is allowed in self-contained vehicles or tents and available at sites **year-round** including at least Cape Point Campground, Ocracoke Campground, and the Oregon Inlet Campground with applicable fees as appropriate.*

Mike Murray
Superintendent
Cape Hatteras NS/ Wright Brothers NMem/ Ft. Raleigh NHS
(w) 252-473-2111, ext. 148
(c) 252-216-5520
fax 252-473-2595

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▼ [Paul Stevens/CAHA/NPS](#)

**Paul
Stevens/CAHA/NPS**

To Mike Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS

cc

08/29/2008 10:28 AM

Subject Fw: Vehicle Characteristics & Operations Call Notes

Mike,

Notes from yesterday's call.

Paul K. Stevens
Law Enforcement Specialist
National Park Service
Outer Banks Group
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, NC 27954

(252) 473-2111 ext. 138 (office)

(252) 475-8307 (cellular)

----- Forwarded by Paul Stevens/CAHA/NPS on 08/29/2008 11:28 AM -----

**Ona Ferguson
<oferguson@cbuilding.org>**

To <cahoonr@embarqmail.com>,
<derbc@selcnc.org>,
<jkeene@franklineq.com>,
<topatneal@aol.com>, Patrick Paquette
<basicpatrick@aol.com>,
<Paul_Stevens@nps.gov>

08/28/2008 05:40 PM

cc Robert Fisher <rcf@fisherccs.com>, Pat Field
<pfield@cbuilding.org>, Cyndy Holda
<Cyndy_Holda@nps.gov>

Subject Vehicle Characteristics & Operations Call Notes

All,

Attached is the updated version of the vehicle characteristics and operations subcommittee work to date. There are several additions (in red) to take a close look at: (1) the summary sentences of the CFR - thanks Paul!, (2) the Camping sentence we developed today, and (3) the final page, which is my attempt to summarize the key issues around napping without getting into every detail. This final item could go

somewhere else, but it seemed simple to me to put it directly into the document.

Please let this group know as soon as possible (a) any suggested improvements to the document, and (b) how you would like to proceed on getting the document out to the committee and preparing for the presentation. I would like to send something to the Committee on Weds AM at the latest, and most of you were not available on Tues during the day for another call. We could perhaps do a Tues evening call if necessary. Also, we could talk towards the end of the week to plan how you want to present your work, if that sounds like a good idea.

Thanks for your best thoughts and ideas on how to move forward and I very much appreciate your work in developing new, clear, productive ideas for the Committee.

Best,

Ona

--

Ona Ferguson
The Consensus Building Institute
238 Main Street, Suite 400
Cambridge, MA 02142
(617) 844-1127
www.cbuilding.org



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**VEHICLE CHARACTERISTICS,
EQUIPMENT AND OPERATIONS**

I. GENERAL

ENFORCEMENT: Such regulation shall be enforced by the NPS according to graduated law enforcement principles.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: The Park shall establish and maintain a standing ORV [FACA] committee with representatives from various sections/geographies of the Park representing diverse and balanced interests to provide input to the Park [Superintendent?] on, among other things, vehicle characteristics.

EXEMPT VEHICLES: All emergency vehicles (vehicles used for EMS, rescue, or fire) are exempt from these vehicle operations regulations. Any operators of essential vehicles (vehicles used by NPS or with NPS permission), excluding emergency vehicles as identified above, must be trained and authorized to drive on the beach by NPS prior to operating in any way beyond normal public use.

II. VEHICLE CHARACTERISTICS

PURPOSE: Manage and regulate the type of vehicle allowed to drive on CAHA beaches.

SCOPE: Applied for all driving on all routes, trails, and areas designated for ORV driving.

VEHICLE CHARACTERISTICS: All vehicles must exhibit the following characteristics to drive on the Park's beaches. Drivers are responsible for ensuring their vehicles meet these characteristics.

1. All vehicles ~~should~~must be registered, licensed, and insured and comply with state inspection regulations within the state, country or province where the vehicle is registered.
2. Four-wheel drive vehicles are allowed.
3. Two wheel drive vehicles are allowed after the operator obtains a special use permit.
4. Motorcycles are prohibited on the ocean beachfront.
5. ATVs are prohibited.
6. There is a three axle maximum for vehicles (this is the axle maximum for the powered vehicle only and does not include the additional number of axles on towed trailers).
7. Any trailers are limited to no more than two axles.
8. The maximum vehicle length is thirty (30') feet (this is the maximum length for the powered vehicle and does not include the additional length of a towed trailer).
9. Tires must be U.S. Department of Transportation listed and/or approved tires only.

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III. REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

PURPOSE: To identify special equipment required and recommended to safely operate a vehicle on the beach

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: All vehicles operated on the beach shall contain the following required equipment.

1. A low-pressure tire gauge effective down to 5 psi.
2. A shovel
3. A jack
4. A jack ~~stand~~ support
5. Trash bag or container
6. Flashlight for any driving between dusk and dawn.
7. Copy of the current ORV regulations and map.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT: The following equipment is recommended but not required.

1. A full size spare tire
2. First aid kit
3. Fire extinguisher
4. Tow strap with loop ends, no hooks, with a rating capacity at or above the GVW of item being recovered or moved unless vehicle is equipped with an operable electric or hand winch

IV. VEHICLE OPERATIONS

PURPOSE: Ensuring the safety of all public users of the Park and protection of Park resources.

SCOPE: Applied for all driving on all routes, trails, and areas designated for ORV driving.

DRIVER'S LICENSE: All drivers must carry a valid driver's license.

SPEED LIMITS: The following are speed limits for driving on the beach within CAHA. Speed limit on park beaches is 15 mph May 15-September 15, unless otherwise posted and 25 mph September 16-May 14, unless otherwise posted. [THESE DATES COULD CHANGE PENDING COMMITTEE WORK ON VILLAGE CLOSURES.]

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TIRE PRESSURE: Lower the pressure on all tires. The softer the sand the lower the pressure needed. Generally drive with 20-25 lbs. pressure in the tires. When you return to paved roads, inflate the tires to normal as soon as possible.

RIGHT OF WAY: Right of way shall be as follows:

1. A vehicle exiting the beach via a Ramp or Interdunal Road has the right of way until reaching state-regulated roads.
2. When traveling parallel to the ocean or sound, the vehicle with the water to it's right side has the right of way.

CAMPING: Camping in designated areas (campsites or other) is allowed in self-contained vehicles or tents and available at sites year-round including at least Cape Point Campground, Ocracoke Campground, and the Oregon Inlet Campground with applicable fees as appropriate.

OTHER RELEVANT REGULATIONS: Other pertinent and relevant federal or state regulations include:

- Camping is only allowed at designated areas. (36 CFR 2.10)
 - Obstructing traffic on park roads is prohibited. (36 CFR 4.13)
 - Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is prohibited. (36 CFR 4.23)
 - All drivers and passengers are required to wear seatbelts. (36 CFR 4.15)
 - A valid state driver's license is required for all operators of motor vehicles on park roads. (36 CFR 4.2)
 - Operating a motor vehicle without due care or at a speed greater than which is reasonable and prudent considering wildlife, traffic, weather, road and light conditions and road character is prohibited. (36 CFR 4.22)
 - Operators of motor vehicles involved in accidents resulting in property damage, personal injury, or death shall immediately report the accident to park rangers. (36 CFR 4.4)
 - The operators of authorized emergency vehicles, when responding to an emergency or when pursuing or apprehending an actual or suspected violator of the law may disregard traffic control devices, exceed the speed limit, and obstruct traffic. (36 CFR 4.3)
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OUTSTANDING TOPIC

As the topic of *napping and short-term sleeping on the beach* remains under discussion by the subcommittee, it is not included in the document above. Due to enforcement challenges, this topic is closely linked to the topic of camping on the beach.

Related issues and concerns raised include:

- Equity: those on the beach without vehicles are permitted to nap, so those with vehicles should also be allowed to do so.
- Brief Interludes: desire for those who drive to the beach for a long day of fishing to be allowed to nap while awaiting the tide or other conditions.
- Enforcement: Want regulations that are enforceable. Assuming that camping anywhere on the beach is not allowed for a variety of reasons, because it is difficult for rangers to make a distinction at night between those who are truly camping and those napping, allowing napping at all makes the no camping regulation difficult to enforce.



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